

REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a restriction/election office action, dated December 24, 2003, classifying the pending claims of the present application into two groups of distinct inventions, as follows: Group I: Claims 1-11; and Group II: Claims 13-22 and 24-32.

By this amendment, applicant has canceled claims 13-22 and 24-32. Claims 1-11 remain in the present application.

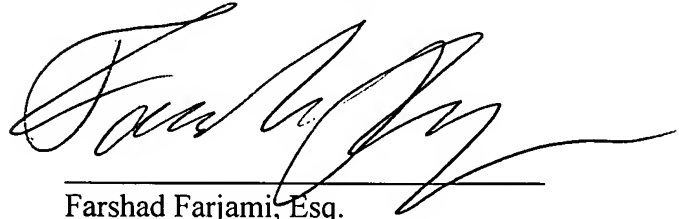
Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, dated December 24, 2003.

Accordingly, applicant elects, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-11 in the present application. Applicant has canceled claims 13-22 and 24-32 in the present application solely in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, dated December 24, 2003. Applicant hereby reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 13-22 and 24-32, which are canceled by this amendment solely in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement.

According to the election made herein to prosecute claims 1-11 in the present application, applicant respectfully requests an early examination and/or allowance of claims 1-11 pending in the present application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any comments or discussions regarding the present application.

Respectfully Submitted;
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